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Programme of activities for the International Year for People of African Descent

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/36 and focuses on the programme of activities to mark the International Year for People of African Descent.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 64/169, the General Assembly proclaimed the year beginning on 1 January 2011 the International Year for People of African Descent, with a view to strengthening national actions and regional and international cooperation for the benefit of people of African descent in relation to their full enjoyment of economic, cultural, social, civil and political rights, their participation and integration in all political, economic, social and cultural aspects of society, and the promotion of a greater knowledge of and respect for their diverse heritage and culture.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly encouraged Member States, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and existing resources, and civil society to make preparations for and identify possible initiatives that could contribute to the success of the Year.

3. In resolution 65/36, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary fund for the activities for the Year, to which Member States and all relevant donors were encouraged to contribute. In the same resolution, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to close the Year with the convening of a high-level thematic debate on the achievements of the goals and objectives of the Year. The General Assembly invited Member States to support the implementation of activities for the Year and to cooperate constructively and decisively to ensure rapid progress and concrete results in the achievement of the objectives of the Year. The General Assembly encouraged Member States, donors and other stakeholders to participate in and contribute, on a voluntary basis, to activities related to the Year. It encouraged the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and existing resources, and intergovernmental organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to develop activities for the Year.

4. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to launch the Year with an opening day ceremony on 10 December 2010 and invited the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to facilitate and assist in the implementation of activities, in order to continue to contribute to the success of the Year, in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities and bodies.

5. Finally, the General-Assembly requested the Secretary General to submit to it at its sixty-sixth session a report on progress and the implementation of the resolution.

II. Implementation of resolution 65/36

6. On 24 March 2011, in compliance with paragraph 10 of resolution 65/36, notes verbales were sent to Member States and the other stakeholders mentioned in the resolution inviting them to transmit information on the activities that they had carried out, as well as the activities that they were planning to carry out, in the context of the International Year. A follow-up note verbale was sent on 25 May 2011. Contributions were received from 10 Member States, 5 United Nations bodies, 1 regional organization, 1 national human rights institution and 2 civil society organizations.

7. The present report contains summaries of the contributions received in response to the notes verbales.

III. Contributions received

A. Member States

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Original: English]
[23 May 2011]

Bosnia and Herzegovina emphasized that the principle of non-discrimination was enshrined in both the constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina and entity constitutions and lower levels of Government, and that the parliamentary assembly had recently adopted a comprehensive law on the prevention of all forms of discrimination in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Currently, the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina are working on the text of a "rulebook on implementation", which will provide for the establishment of a unified database on any registered cases of discrimination.

Every year the council of ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopts a plan and programme to mark important human rights dates. That document obliges the appropriate authorities to mark the International Day relating to their individual field. Although no such day is included in the programme for people of African descent, it does include the Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March). Bosnia and Herzegovina will make efforts to include a day for people of African descent in the programme.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[6 June 2011]

Colombia co-sponsored and actively promoted the adoption of resolution 64/169, which proclaims 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent. That process was supported by the President, Vice-President and the Minister of the Interior and Justice of Colombia.

On 21 January 2011, a photography exhibition entitled "Portraits of Afro-Colombian women" was inaugurated. From 28 February to 3 March, the sessions of the International Scientific Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Social Organization (UNESCO) project on the theme "The slave route" were held in Bogota and Cartagena. On 8 March, International Women's Day was commemorated, with special emphasis for 2011 placed upon women of African, Raizal and Palenquera descent. On 21 May, the national Day for Afro-Colombians was celebrated. On 20 July, which marks the celebration of Colombia's independence, several well-known Afro-Colombian artists performed. A proposal was made for an Ibero-American forum of black cultures to be held in Cali on 23 and 24 August. By its resolution 0740 of 18 May 2011, the Ministry of Culture declared the month of May as Afro-Colombian month.

On 29 April 2011, the Minister of the Interior and Justice presented a national development plan in Quibdo, in the region of Choco (which has the largest Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquera population in the country). On 28 May, the President held a session on the theme "accords for prosperity" in Cali (where there is a large black population), in which actions to be carried out during the year were discussed. On 16 and 17 June, there will be a forum on the theme "Colombia is multicultural, black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquera". On 20 May, an event on innovative policies for social inclusion and recognition of the Afro-Colombian population was held in Cali. From 31 May to 4 June, the second forum for women of African descent was held in Cali. The inauguration of an observatory for women of African descent will also be inaugurated. Throughout May, forums, academic presentations and cultural events will be held to celebrate Afro-Colombian month in different cities around the country.

In September, the Afro-Colombian group Chocquibtown will perform in Brisbane, Australia. In June and July, a photographic exhibition on Afro-Colombian women will be displayed in Pretoria. The exhibition will also be shown in Nairobi. In July, Afro-Colombian musicians and other artists will perform in festivals in Berlin, Vienna, London, Rome, Warsaw, Lisbon, Ottawa, San José and Kingston. An art exhibition will also take place in Havana in July. In September, a concert will be given in Stockholm. In November, a photographic exhibition and cultural events will take place in Tegucigalpa.

The National University of Colombia participated in the celebration of the International Year for People of African Descent by a course entitled "Cátedra Jorge Eliécer Gaitán" on race as a socio-historical construct, which was held from 28 February to 31 May.

On 24 May, and in association with the Vice-Presidency of the Republic and the Office in Colombia of OHCHR, representatives of the presidential programme for the formulation of strategies and actions for the holistic development of the Afro-Colombian population held a forum of experts on racial discrimination in Colombia.

On 13 May, a series of forums on the theme "We are Afros" was initiated by an alliance between the newspaper *El Tiempo*, the United Nation Development Programme, the French Embassy, the Alliance Française and the Programa ACU.

Costa Rica

[Original: Spanish]
[29 June 2011]

On 24 February, the National Commission for Afro-Costa Ricans was created through Executive Decree 36465-RE. The purpose of the Commission is to coordinate with different ministries and Government institutions, United Nations agencies, the Organization of American States (OAS) and other national and international organizations with regard to activities to be carried out in the context of the International Year for People of African Descent and beyond.

The Commission plans to establish a database on Afro-Costa Rican culture and promote a shared vision and joint commitment for sustainable national development and an inclusive Costa Rica. Other activities include the translation and

dissemination of Afro-centric history and the promotion, to the extent possible, of all activities that are similar and compatible with those carried out by the Commission. The Commission and the Government of Costa Rica are also supporting efforts to develop an inter-American convention against racism. In that regard, in 2010, Costa Rica assumed the presidency of the working group that is developing the convention and has taken several measures to advance and facilitate its elaboration. Costa Rica believes that the adoption of the convention would be a regional landmark in the context of the tenth anniversary of the Durban World Conference Against Racism and the International Year for People of African Descent.

Costa Rica has developed a project for a national action plan against racism and racial discrimination and is working on developing the plan itself. During the International Year, Costa Rica will implement concrete activities that will make the population of African descent visible in the country and the region, promote the recognition of the contributions that the population has made and improve its quality of life.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[11 May 2011]

Cuba prepared a programme of action for the International Year that is being implemented and in which Government institutions and civil society are actively participating. Some of the activities in the programme of action are described below.

A competition will be held on the theme "Memory, contributions to diversity", including biographies, testimonies, essays, stories, novels, poetry and theatre. Concerts will be held with some of the most prestigious Cuban musical groups to commemorate the International Year as well as efforts against racial discrimination and racial prejudices. Well-known Cuban painters will hold exhibitions on the theme. Special journalistic materials will be produced and distributed throughout the country with articles related to the theme of people of African descent in Cuba. A documentary will be produced on the activities of the Commission against Racism and Racial Discrimination. Texts on the subject of people of African descent will be published in Cuban magazines and newspapers. Meetings, debates and postgraduate courses on the subject of race will be promoted. Homage will be paid to men and women who played an important role in the creation of Cuba's national identity and in the fight to promote the values inherited from African cultures, and in achieving a more equitable society without differences based on skin colour.

A round-table discussion will be organized on Cuban television in order to disseminate information about the activities. Activities will also be organized to commemorate the bicentenary of the independence movement of people of African descent, which was led by the Cuban patriot José Antonio Aponte, and the centenary of the massacre of the *Independientes de Color*. An international poetry festival will be held. Additionally, the Union of Artists and Writers of Cuba's Commission against Racism and Racial Discrimination had proposed that every association of the institution (association of scenic artists; association of plastic artists; association of writers; association of musicians; association of film, radio and television directors) as well as the Directorate of Community Work, develop a plan of action in

commemoration of the International Year. A range of cultural activities are planned that are directed at the application of the United Nations resolution in coordination with the Nicolas Guillen Foundation, the Fernando Ortiz Foundation, the Association for the Friendship of Cuba and Africa, African House and other civil society organizations and State entities.

The above-mentioned activities constitute just a few examples of what is taking place in the country to commemorate the International Year for People of African Descent. Many other activities are being carried out, including through the media and at the community level.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[14 June 2011]

In the context of the International Year for People of African Descent, Ecuador is implementing processes defined as affirmative actions at the national level, which are carried out by the secretariat for peoples, social movements and citizen's participation. Projects and activities of an international character are also carried out under the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Integration.

At the national level, Ecuador is implementing several initiatives, such as a plan for living well; a plurinational plan against racial discrimination, ethnic exclusion and culture; a plan for the redistribution of lands; the bank of the Ecuadorean institute for social security; the institute for popular economy; the "5-5-5" microcredit programme; and a human development grant.

Ecuador will also implement a week of solidarity to fight against racism and racial discrimination; the creation of 50 anti-discrimination units in decentralized autonomous governments; five agreements between ministries and public and private institutions to institutionalize a policy on inclusion; the application of a plan for quotas and grants for students and employment quotas; formal discussions on economic and social rights between civil society organizations and equality councils (or organizations of peoples and nationalities); and diversity encounters between nationalities, indigenous populations, Montubios and Ecuadoreans of African descent.

Ecuador will also implement a plan against racism in educational institutions; produce an informative kit with materials concerning the International Year for People of African Descent; pass hate crime laws; promote and apply affirmative measures in the areas of employment, social and economic inclusion, education and housing; hold community radio campaigns to publicize the plurinational plan against racism; design an instrument to evaluate compliance with the plan; promote the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; commemorate the International Year for People of African Descent at the national level; and celebrate the national Day for Ecuadoreans of African Descent.

At the international level, Ecuador will publish a link on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that will give information on activities connected with the Year; form an inter-ministerial commission for the execution of the plurinational plan for the elimination of racial discrimination; hold social and cultural events; and

organize academic events to discuss the theme "Recalling the history of people of African descent". On the national Day for People of African Descent (16 October), an international forum will be held on public policy and the advances and challenges for people of African descent. Other activities will include the publication in November of a record of the International Year; training given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Ecuadorean civil servants outside the country on inter-culturality, people of African descent and affirmative action; and a library on people of African descent to be established in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ecuador will also establish grants for people of African descent to study diplomacy; participate in a meeting of Government authorities in Brazil on the International Year, organized by Secretary-General of the Organization of Ibero-American States; participate in the first Ibero-American conference on cultures and communities of African descent, organized by the Organization of Ibero-American States; and establish cooperation agreements with international organizations such as the Union of South American Nations, the Bolivian Alliance for the Americas and the Andean Community.

Jamaica

[Original: English]
[24 June 2011]

The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture of Jamaica is spearheading the national thrust to commemorate the International Year of People of African Descent. A national working group, comprising representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and civil society organizations, has been established to develop and coordinate a series of African-themed events to be staged during the Year. A key focus of the national initiatives will be on the situation of Jamaicans as a people of African descent. Additionally, various activities and events will be aimed specifically at children and young people as well as individuals with whom they will have significant interaction, such as teachers in training. Events undertaken or being undertaken to commemorate the International Year of People of African Descent are the following:

(a) In March, a motorcade rally was held in Kingston in collaboration with the Rastafarian movement to mark the 45th anniversary of the State visit by the late Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, (the movement's recognized deity); the African Diplomatic Corps participated in selected community-based projects on Labour Day (23 May 2011); and a national symposium was held on 25 May 2011, which is globally recognized as African Liberation Day;

(b) A cultural exhibition will be held over "emancipation weekend", from 30 July to 1 August, on the theme "Ironies of coronation", and an "emancipation jubilee", to be held in Seville, near St. Ann, on 31 July 2011, will focus on the rituals of liberation and the triumph of the African people over slavery and oppression in Jamaica. An exhibition will be held of a collection of the works of the renowned late sculptor, painter and revivalist leader, Mallica "Kapo" Reynolds. Also, national heritage week, in October 2011, will highlight the various social, political and economic roles played by people of African descent in the growth and development of society.

Lithuania

[Original: English]
[1 June 2011]

In March 2011, in the context of the International Year for People of African Descent, representatives of Lithuania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a special event dedicated to Rwanda, with the participation of Rwanda genocide survivors and Lithuanian volunteers who had been working with them. On the occasion, a photo exhibition dedicated to the Rwandan people was inaugurated at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In May 2011, in collaboration with local enthusiasts, Lithuanians of African descent, Lithuanian volunteers who have worked in Africa, dedicated travellers, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania and the Lithuanian non-governmental organization "Balta scena" organized the first-ever "African Days" festival. The programme of the festival featured a variety of social and cultural events, including exhibitions, concerts, meetings, percussion and dance workshops and film demonstrations, that enabled Lithuanians to learn about the cultures, traditions and realities of sub-Saharan Africa.

As part of the programme, on 24 May 2011, on the eve of the International Day of Africa, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania opened a thematic photo exhibition on the theme "Africa through the eyes of Lithuanian diplomats".

Mauritius

[Original: English]
[27 June 2011]

The Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture, which operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Arts and Culture of Mauritius, organized the following activities in the context of the International Year for People of African Descent:

(a) The network of People of African Origin was launched on 26 March 2011, during which a presentation on Africa was made by African students;

(b) A video conference was held with people of the African diaspora from Côte D'Ivoire, France, Haiti, Réunion Island and Rodrigues Island; and an event organized featuring typical African dishes;

(c) A talk was given at the Centre on 14 May 2011 on African socio-cultural norms and African traditional education and its fundamental values. On 25 May, in the context of Africa Day, the Centre launched the publication of *Our First Freedom Fighter: The Rising Sun of Freedom*.

The Nelson Mandela Cultural Centre for African Culture intends to host all of its future cultural activities in the context of the International Year.

Serbia

[Original: English]
[18 May 2011]

Activities held to celebrate the International Year for People of African Descent, the African Arts Museum in Belgrade include the following:

(a) An exhibition, from 16 February to 20 August, on weights for measuring golden powder and on the Akan people: the exhibition has shown more than 500 weights from the Museum's collection and over 200 weights from the collection of the Slovene Ethnographic Museum in Ljubljana, including samples from private collections, scales, boxes and scoops for gold powder;

(b) A workshop on 26 and 27 February on the theme "South Africa — Live": the Museum, together with the Association for Arts and Cultural Development of Africa, organized creative workshops for youth and children to raise awareness of South African art;

(c) A museum night on 14 May, for which the Museum organized an exhibition of installations and a special programme of events that visitors were able to plan themselves;

(d) A cultural event organized each year by the Museum, "Afro-Festival", represents a unique programme both in the country and the region; the International Year for People of African Descent will be marked with two important events within the festival;

(e) The Museum will feature an exhibition in June on African-American heritage, which forms an integral part of the culture of the United States of America: the Museum will showcase the musical crossroads of the Afro-American culture and sub-culture to show the historical development and new tendencies in Afro-American music;

(f) African Awareness Day, will be held in November in collaboration with the Brazilian Embassy in Belgrade; the Museum will mark the Day by highlighting the contribution made by the millions of slaves brought by force to Brazil from Africa in building the country.

Trinidad and Tobago

[Original: English]
[19 May 2011]

The International Year gives Trinidad and Tobago an opportunity to remember and note with gratitude the contribution of the African ancestors to the economic, social and cultural heritage of the country. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has therefore pledged the sum of $10,000 to the voluntary fund for the erection of a permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade at a place of prominence at United Nations Headquarters.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the International Year for People of African Descent was celebrated at a breakfast meeting and media launch on 26 January by the Prime Minister, who mandated the establishment of a multi-stakeholder team to formulate a national agenda of activities to commemorate the International Year for People of

African Descent. Also in attendance was a representative of the United Nations working group of experts on people of African descent.

The multi-stakeholder team was eventually established and included representatives of the Government (chaired by the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), civil society, multilateral organizations and academia. The team worked to draft a national agenda to commemorate the International Year for People of African Descent. Activities include:

(a) An Anansi storytelling competition, aimed at primary school children aged 9 to 11 and intended to document African oral traditions;

(b) An essay competition incorporating the Year into the existing Ministry of Foreign Affairs essay competition for secondary school children on the theme "Future diplomats";

(c) Model African Union sessions held at secondary schools and universities;

(d) The launch by the cultural chair of the emancipation support committee, in collaboration with the University of Trinidad and Tobago, of a booklet on the retention of African culture in Trinidad and Tobago, to be distributed to teacher trainees and secondary schools;

(e) Organization and planning by the national library and information systems authority of Trinidad and Tobago of a series of workshops and a lecture on the theme "Post traumatic slave syndrome"; and, in collaboration with UNESCO, a national symposium to engage the public in a national discourse on the political, social, economic and cultural contributions of persons of African descent to Trinidad and Tobago;

(f) Efforts to ensure the participation of Trinidad and Tobago in the pan African festival and emancipation day celebrations, held in Ghana from 27 July to 1 August;

(g) Nationwide promotion, at the community level, of African films, with the objective of educating the general public, thereby giving recognition to the directors, producers and artists.

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]
[9 June 2011]

On 4 April, in the context of the International Year for People of African Descent, the Ukrainian national library organized a historic discussion for children on the theme "We are against enslavement". On 27 April 2011, the Lugansk Regional Universal Scientific Library conducted a thematic discussion on "African legends".

On 16 June 2011, the Odessa state library will organize a round-table discussion on the theme "The year of friendships and partnerships: the potential of international relations between Ukraine and African countries".

Furthermore, Ukrainian cultural and art institutions regularly organize events that include African participants, with the objective of enhancing tolerance and

inter-ethnic dialogue and teaching about the history, culture and traditions of African peoples.

B. United Nations bodies

Department of Public Information

The Department of Public Information, working in close collaboration with OHCHR, initiated a range of activities to promote the observance of the International Year for People of African Descent.

With the International Year for People of African Descent as its primary focus, the Department engaged its network of United Nations information centres to promote the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March) at the national level through collaboration and proactive outreach initiatives. With seed money provided by the Department, special events, marking 21 March as part of the International Year for People of African Descent, were organized by the United Nations information centres. They include:

- **Paraguay**. In collaboration with the Brazilian Embassy in Paraguay, the United Nations information centre in Asunción staged an art show to raise awareness about people of African descent in Paraguay.
- **Poland**. The United Nations information centre in Warsaw translated the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action into Polish and organized several events, including a concert, a number of open-air events and meetings with secondary-school and university students.
- **United Republic of Tanzania**. In collaboration with the country's legal and human rights centre and the University of Dar es Salaam association of human rights, the United Nations information centre in Dar es Salaam organized a public lecture on the International Year for People of African Descent, the slave trade and racial discrimination.

On 21 March, as part of its educational outreach on racial discrimination, the Department organized a videoconference for middle and high school students on racial discrimination and the International Year for People of African Descent. Also in March, the Department hosted its first one-day global educators' videoconference as part of the observance of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

The Department plans to organize a mini-conference for students in September, before the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. At the conference, students will be invited to study the Declaration and to submit their own recommendations for the attention of Member States.

The Department has provided extensive coverage of events in observance of the International Year for People of African Descent and related issues. A total of 18 hours of events covered by United Nations Television were streamed in a United Nations webcast and archived. UNifeed, the Department's online video service for television stations worldwide, has produced video news packages. United Nations Radio has produced news and feature stories in the six official languages, as well as Kiswahili and Portuguese. The United Nations News Centre, a global gateway of

news about the United Nations, has provided coverage of the events on its Internet hub in the six official languages, and has further disseminated articles by e-mail, in English and French, to tens of thousands of subscribers worldwide, and on Twitter and Facebook to around 25,000 followers. The Department's Meetings Coverage Section has issued a total of 15 press releases (10 in English, 5 in French). In addition, the Department has launched a website on the International Year for People of African Descent, redesigned its website on the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and updated its website with new content on the elimination of racial discrimination, in all six languages.

For the September high-level meeting of the General Assembly, the Department plans to create a new website for the event, with full coverage of the plenary meetings in print, photos, television, webcast and related radio and video packages.

The Department published the 2011 edition of its best-selling book, *Basic Facts about the United Nations*, which includes chapters on the efforts of the United Nations to combat discrimination against people of African descent.

The Department is also designing, developing and producing an exhibition on the theme "People of African Descent", to be held at United Nations Headquarters in November 2011.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Commemorative activities for the International Year for People of African Descent are described below.

In April, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Ecuador provided support for the organization of a photo exhibition entitled "let us never forget" ("*Para que nunca se nos olvide*") as a joint effort with the municipality of Esmeraldas, UNESCO and the International Centre for Cultural Diversity. A special *feria* was organized by UNHCR in the Ecuadorian province of Imbabura, to promote integration among the different social groups living in Ecuador, including people of African descent. That activity was carried out within the context of the campaign entitled "living together in solidarity" ("*Convivir en Solidaridad*").

The official launch in Colombia (Bogotá) of the International Year for People of African Descent, as well as in other countries in the region, is planned for May 2011, with a video presentation on Afro-Colombian youngsters on the Pacific coast of Colombia. UNHCR Colombia also carried out a campaign as part of the International Year on the theme "Lets put ourselves in their shoes", to draw attention to the situation of Afro-Colombians. The campaign includes the development of a website dedicated to the Year, a photography exhibition by two well known Colombian photographers and a fact sheet on the situation of people of African descent in Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the work that UNHCR carriers out with those populations.

In February, a youth conference was held in Costa Rica on the theme "Ties without borders" ("*Lazos sin Fronteras*"), which included the participation of some 180 adolescents, who discussed the challenges of local integration for migrants and refugees. The conference included the participation of youngsters of African descent

and was organized by UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration, the Vice-Minister of Costa Rica for Youth, and the Council for Youth and Migration.

UNHCR Panama participated in a conference hosted by OHCHR to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. As part of the event, women of African and indigenous descent spoke about integration and non-discrimination challenges in Panama.

In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, UNHCR plans to continue to work on community participation and self-management. Participatory assessment exercises will guide the design and implementation of programmes for the promotion of specific solutions for displaced indigenous communities of African descent. Leadership and human rights training to empower such communities will also be conducted.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Some of the activities to commemorate the International Year for People of African Descent are described below.

A worldwide videoconference involving teachers and experts was organized on 23 March 2011 at United Nations Headquarters in observance of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Several initiatives were developed for schools worldwide to commemorate the slave trade and its abolition in the context of the transatlantic slave trade education project, which links schools in the three regions involved in the triangular transatlantic slave trade (Africa, the Americas and Europe). The goal of the project is to increase awareness of the causes and consequences of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, including modern forms of slavery and racism, through educational exchanges, sharing best practices and developing and diffusing educational material.

In March and April, the UNESCO office in Brazil organized a series of seminars to launch the Portuguese edition of the UNESCO *General History of Africa*, in the context of the "Brazil-Africa: crossed histories project", which aims to promote recognition of the importance of the intersections of African and Brazilian histories, in order to reinvigorate relations between the different racial groups living in the country.

UNESCO will launch an international design competition for the construction of a permanent memorial at the United Nations in honour of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade. Throughout 2011, UNESCO has scheduled a series of expert meetings and seminars as part of the International Year for People of African Descent. Studies, reports and publications have been launched in the context of the "slave route" project, and art exhibitions have been organized.

UNESCO will present a consolidated document on the activities held in the context of the International Year for People of African descent to the 187th session of its Executive Board and to the 36th session of its General Conference.

United Nations Children's Fund

In November 2010, the United Nations Children's Fund in Brazil launched a national campaign on the impact of racism on children, entitled "For a childhood free from racism: valuing differences in children is nurturing equality". The

campaign aims at mobilizing society around the need to ensure equal treatment and opportunities for all Brazilian children regardless of colour. The campaign will continue throughout 2011 as part of the International Year for People of African Descent. The campaign was launched owing to statistics indicating that 62 per cent of children aged 7 to 14 years who are out of school are of African descent and that the infant mortality rate of children of African descent aged 1 year and under is as high as 41.9 deaths per 1,000 live births, compared with the national rate of 19 deaths per 1,000 live births. The event was attended by indigenous adolescents and adolescents of African descent, who had an opportunity to report on their experiences and perceptions in relation to racial inequalities.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

In anticipation of the International Year for People of African Descent, OHCHR developed a framework for action that was endorsed by the senior management team as an office-wide policy initiative to combat discrimination against people of African descent. The activities carried out at headquarters in the context of the International Year are described below.

On 2 March, in response to resolution 14/16 of the Human Rights Council, OHCHR organized a panel discussion during the high-level segment of the sixteenth session of the Council, that focused on the full enjoyment of the human rights of people of African descent. Panellists made presentations on the different chailenges that people of African descent face, such as education, housing, employment and their full integration into social, economic and political life and at all levels of decision-making. Panellists also identified good practices to effectively address such challenges.

On 7 March, OHCHR serviced the 78th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which, to mark the International Year, included a thematic discussion with presentations by invited expert panellists, including special procedures mandate holders, on racial discrimination against people of African descent. The Committee unanimously decided to prepare a general recommendation on the specific issue of combating discrimination against people of African descent, to be presented at its next session.

On 21 March 2011, OHCHR commemorated the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination with an event that focussed on the situation of people of African descent, including a film highlighting the difficulties faced by such people in Argentina. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights addressed the event and released an opinion piece in the media on the subject of discrimination against people of African descent. Also, several special procedures mandate holders issued a joint statement on the theme "Recognition, justice and development: a roadmap to achieve full equality for people of African descent".

Between 28 March and 1 April, OHCHR serviced the 10th session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, which focused on the International Year. The thematic discussions held during the session contextualized the Year and further examined the situation that people of African descent face in a number of areas. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made an opening address at the session, and a keynote address was given by a distinguished academic on the history of the slave trade and the need for a reparations movement. The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism,

racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance also participated, and a concert by a Swiss-Haitian singer was also held during the session.

An electronic toolkit was prepared by OHCHR to help staff in its field offices to work on the issue of people of African descent. The toolkit contains a large number of reports, resolutions, presentations and other documents relevant to the subject, to be used as a resource for combating racism and racial discrimination directed at people of African descent.

Between 16 and 20 April, OHCHR staff accompanied the working group of experts on people of African descent during its country visit to Portugal. The working group met with Government officials, inter-governmental organizations, academics, non-governmental organizations and members of the community of people of African descent. The members of the mission gathered information on the situation of people of African descent in Portugal, the challenges they face and the programmes and other initiatives being implemented to address those challenges. A report on the country visit will be submitted to the Human Rights Council.

Other activities planned for the second half of the year include a side event to the eighteenth session of the Human Rights Council, consisting of a panel of writers of African descent; a concert by musicians of African descent to be organized in collaboration with Governments; the publication of a compilation of the conclusions and recommendations made by the working group of experts on people of African descent; and a fellowship programme for people of African descent to spend a month in Geneva and learn about the different United Nations human rights mechanisms and how they function. OHCHR is implementing a wide-ranging public information strategy to promote the International Year, including the development of a logo for the Year in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Public Information; a dedicated section on the OHCHR website; press releases, information notes and feature stories on the web; and a range of electronic and print promotional materials. The majority of the initiatives will be produced in all six official United Nations languages. A public service announcement funded by the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie will also be produced at the beginning of the second semester and distributed through an extensive array of public television broadcasters and posted on the Internet until the end of the year.

In September, the OHCHR Regional Office for Central America will organize a regional seminar to bring together international human rights experts and representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions, racial equality bodies and United Nations agencies from seven countries (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama) to discuss the progress of the region's agenda to combat discrimination against people of African descent, identify challenges and foster closer interaction and synergy for further action.

The OHCHR Regional Office for Central America, with the support of La Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo, is implementing a two-year regional project in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama aimed at strengthening the capacity of four key actors (non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions, racial equality bodies and the United Nations system) in order to promote and enhance the protection of the human rights of people of African descent.

In Costa Rica, the OHCHR Regional Office for Central America, with the support of the Anti-Discrimination Section of OHCHR, is collaborating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and United Nations country teams to promote the elaboration of a national plan of action against discrimination.

The OHCHR Regional Office for Central America supports efforts within the Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Group to formalize the ad hoc United Nations regional inter-agency working group on people of African descent in order to place greater emphasis on inter-agency collaboration.

C. Regional and other intergovernmental organizations

Department of International Law, Organization of American States

The project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, the Department of International Law of Organization of American States (OAS) to incorporate issues regarding people of African descent in the policies and programmes of the OAS carried out the activities described below.

On 8 June 2010, the General Assembly of OAS approved resolution AG/RES 2550, on the recognition of the International Year for People of African Descent, and reaffirmed the importance of the full, free and equal participation of people of African descent in all aspects of political, economic, social and cultural life in the counties of the Americas. The Department of International Law participated in the ninth session of the working group of experts on people of African descent, held in 2010, during which a discussion was held on possible activities to be carried out in 2011 in the context of the International Year.

On 22 January, the Department of International Law organized the second expert workshop on the subject of people of African descent in the Americas. At the workshop, four Government experts made presentations on the legislation, good practices, positive measures and public policies that are being implemented in their countries. A compilation of the presentations will be published and made available to the public. On 15 March, an extraordinary session of the OAS Permanent Council was held in celebration of the International Year, during which it reaffirmed its commitment to work in favour of the full, free and equal participation of people of African descent in all aspects of political, economic, social and cultural life in the American States. The OAS Department of International Law was invited to participate at the 10th session of the working group of experts on people of African descent and to make a presentation under the agenda item "Durban +10".

On 27 April 2011, a workshop for the inclusion of people of African descent in the programmes and projects of the general secretariat of OAS was conducted at OAS headquarters. The workshop was directed at those functionaries of the secretariat involved in the design and implementation of technical cooperation projects. A workshop was held in Lima from 9 to 11 May, on empowering people of African descent in civil society in the inter-American system. The Department of International Law released two publications on people of African descent: (a) on 22 February, *Expert Workshop on the Subject of people of African descent in the Americas*, which compiles presentations given at a 2010 workshop on the theme addresses such topics as affirmative action, combating racial discrimination in

employment, the burden of proof in cases of discrimination and racial hatred; and (b) on 10 May, a publication on standards of protection for people of African descent in the inter-American system. On 7 June, the OAS General Assembly approved resolution AG/RES 2693, on the recognition and promotion of the rights of people of African descent in the Americas.

D. National human rights institutions and other independent bodies

Peruvian ombudsman's office

In the context of the International Year for People of African Descent, the Peruvian ombudsman's office prepared a report on people of African descent in Peru, offering an approach to their reality and the exercise of their rights. The report made visible the situation of people of African descent in Peru and, in its executive summary, states that such people face a particular historical and current context of inequality, exclusion and poverty. The preparation of the report began in February 2010 and included a series of meetings and interviews with representatives of different public institutions and the main organizations of Afro-Peruvian civil society. That investigation also included visits to the towns of Yapatera and Morropon, in Piura, and to Chincha, in Ica, where a series of problems were detected related to racism and discrimination, inclusion and the level of access to utility services by the population.

Representatives of the Peruvian ombudsman's office also met with staff of the national institute for the development of Andean, Amazonian and Afro-Peruvian peoples (*Instituto nacional de desarrollo de pueblos Andinos, Amazónicos y Afro-peruano*), the national centre for intercultural health, the Ministry of Education, the directorate for intercultural and bilingual education, the unit for educational statistics and the national institute for statistics, which provided complementary statistics. Furthermore, requests for information were sent to a wide range of institutions, including the Ministry of Women and Social Development, the Ministry of Justice and the national penitentiary institute.

The main findings of the research show the state of vulnerability and invisibility of that section of the Peruvian population, as well as the structural racial discrimination that persists and generates a negative impact on the full exercise of their rights, especially in the areas of health and education and those rights linked to their culture and identity. Preliminary versions of the report were presented to representatives of Afro-Peruvian civil society.

The main objective of the report was to make visible the situation of people of African descent in Peru. More detailed objectives were to identify the main obstacles faced by Peruvians of African descent in exercising their rights; to clearly identify the legal protection framework; and to evaluate the State's response to guarantee the rights of Peruvians of African descent.

The report concludes that an accurate calculation of the size of the Afro-Peruvian population does not exist, that structural discrimination represents one of the major issues facing Peruvians of African descent and that there is a lack of leadership and coordination on the part of the State that hampers its ability to fulfil its responsibilities to that population group. The report makes a number of recommendations to the Government of Peru.

E. Civil society, including non-governmental organizations

Association of African Entrepreneurs

In celebration of the International Year for People of African Descent, the Association of African Entrepreneurs planned various activities and events throughout 2011 to raise awareness about the challenges faced by marginalized African people and suggest ideas to tackle those challenges. The activities include community improvement forums, to be held in low-income African communities; online fundraising; the training of staff and members; work to attain consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council; the creation of a standard membership service through its website; web socializing by starting a network group on social media sites; the creation of a website in French to attract French speakers; and the facilitating of an onsite volunteering service.

Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra, Portugal

The Centre for Social Studies decided to associate itself with the celebration of 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent and organized a wide set of multidisciplinary, political and ethical activities and debates in 2011 and beyond.

The Centre is organizing several studies on the issue of racism, on such themes as "Race and Africa in Portugal", as well as studies of school history books, on the semantics of tolerance and racism in Europe and of public bodies and civil society. In May, the Centre organized an international conference on the theme "Eurocentrism and racism beyond the positivist order: the politics of history and education".

The Centre is engaged in the critical questioning of Western and European images concerning Africa and in a critical reassessment of colonial inheritance and its historical accounts. It is organizing training courses, on the themes "Other Africas — heterogeneities, (dis)continuities, local expressions" and "Archives of silence: fragments and memories of the empire". The Centre is also organizing public activities open to academic and local communities, as well as a cycle of debates on Portuguese colonial history and a series of film screenings and debates on the experience and history of liberation struggles in Africa and migrations. It will be holding sessions with local high-school students to debate themes related to the International Year and public seminars to promote the knowledge of African thought and Africa's presence and contribution to the world. Other seminars will be held on the legacy of the Black Panther party, memory politics in Mozambique, African philosophy, colonial war, Africa's literary production and literature in the Portuguese language.